

Organization of Military Museums of Canada

Proceedings

46th Annual Museum Studies Program, 27 May 27th – 2 June 2012, Montréal, Quebec

Arrival Day – Sunday, 27 May. The registration desk was open from 1100 until 1700; members received welcome packages including reusable canvas bags, schedule of events, note pads, pens, buttons, and other useful items and souvenirs. The “Meet and Greet” event took place only a few blocks from the hotel at the Armory of *Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal* (FMR). A shuttle bus service was provided between the hotel and the Armory. A barbeque dinner was prepared for the first night and it was served on the terrace.

Day 1 - Monday, 28 May. The day started with a continental breakfast at the hotel. The conference officially began with a special event at which the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medals were presented to a number of members by Mr. Richard Pound, Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Grenadier Guards and a long-time member of the Canadian Olympic Committee, at the Canadian Grenadier Guards Armory. After the medals were presented, a memorial service was conducted at Sir Arthur Currie’s gravesite at the Mount Royal Cemetery. A formal group photo was taken at this location. Then we headed back to the hotel for a buffet lunch.

In the afternoon the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held. The meeting commenced with a special presentation to Dick Malott, a former Executive Director of OMMC and a distinctive individual in the Canadian military history community. (Please refer to AGM Minutes for more information on the meeting)

This was followed by a presentation by Michel Litalien, Section Head, Canadian Forces (CF) Museums, Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH), National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ). Michel discussed the current and ongoing initiatives of DHH on behalf of CAF museums, including funding allocations, the Afghan Legacy Project (renamed Afghanistan Memorial and Artefact Project (AMAP)) and updates on the progress of city center museums.

Dinner was held at the Armory of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. The meal was traditionally Scottish with servings of scotch pies, scotch eggs, sausage rolls, Scotch and the traditional haggis. Two pipers presented traditional airs, and one, with a great deal of dramatic flair, recited Robbie Burns’ poem “An address to a Haggis”.

LCol (Ret’d) Roman Jarymowycz spoke after dinner on Canadian military history education.

Day 2 - Tuesday, 29 May

The day began with a continental breakfast at the hotel and then lectures began at 0900 at the FMR Armory. Trevor Cloney from Canadian Armed Forces Non-Public Property (NPP) (or, organizationally, in NDHQ: Director General Personnel and Family Support Services) was the first to present. He spoke on NPP accountability, framework and procedures as well as on Non-public funding, tax receipts and delegation of authority. The publication of a NPP/Museum Guide is scheduled for Fall 2012.

Lunch was served in the FMR Officers’ Mess.

In the afternoon there was a lecture on legal issues given by Lindsay Murphy from Director General Personnel and Family Support Services. She spoke on contracting “do’s and don’ts”, on the legal counsel and advice provided by Canadian Forces Legal Advisor (CFLA) and on the Consolidated Legal Plan (CLP) insurance coverage for all NPP.

The third lecture for the day was presented by Guy Samson and Warrant Officer Elliott from the Director Disposal, Sales, Artifacts and Loans (DDSAL), NDHQ. Guy spoke on the definition of surplus public assets, the different options which apply to handling surplus assets and the guidelines and responsibilities of DDSAL. He also spoke on the administration of articles and gave examples of the process an article can take. Warrant Elliott spoke on Loans – both parts of their PowerPoint presentations are being emailed to members. For more information please refer to PowerPoint presentation.

The annual trivia quiz by Donald Manley, an update from Capt. Kevin Anderson on the New Brunswick Military History Museum (formerly the Base Gagetown Museum) and a members' meeting on the CF Artefact Management System (CFAMS) ended the day. The members' meeting on CFAMS was run by Chris Colton and a clear general consensus emerged that the software needs to be changed or updated to improve its usefulness.

Dinner took place at the CGG Regiment that night with The Honourable LGen (Ret'd) Roméo Dallaire as the guest speaker. He spoke on the need for inclusion of all types of fallen soldiers in our national memory.

Day 3 - Wednesday, 30 May

The day commenced with a continental breakfast at the hotel and then a road trip to Fort St. Jean on the grounds of Collège militaire royale du Canada, Saint-Jean sur Richilieu. The weather was gorgeous. The Course was split into three smaller groups, each group visited three different activities. There was an archaeological dig to observe, the old museum to visit and a presentation on the new museum being designed, all followed by a buffet lunch before departure.

In the afternoon the group visited 'The David Stewart Museum' on Ile Saint-Hélène. The permanent exhibition and firearm display presentation was conducted with the Director and Chief Curator, Guy Vadeboncour. The firearms and leather conservation workshop was conducted with Curator of Arms & Militaria, Philip Butler. An education program site visit was conducted by the head of Education Programs, Alain Frechette.

Dinner was served in the Officers' Mess of FMR and the day ended with a presentation from DHH on the CF Museum Development Funding (MDF) application. Capt. Yves Lesieur spoke on the purpose, process and on the function of each form. The yearly MDF application, the Transfer Form and the Supplementary Form all have separate functions and serve different purposes; Capt. Lesieur spoke on how to utilize each form appropriately.

Day 4 - Thursday, 31 May

The 4th day began with breakfast at the hotel and then on to a lecture from Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) representative, Tania Mottus. She spoke on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Cultural Institutions. There was an overview of the support CCI offers cultural institutions in emergencies and examples of some case studies to review. A PowerPoint presentation was handed out to all members present.

Lunch was provided in the Officer's Mess of FMR. After lunch, there was a case study presentation by Raymond Falardeau, Curator, on the disastrous fire in the Armory of Les Voltigeurs de Quebec and the effects on the Regimental Museum. Following the case study was a lecture on the NPP Consolidated Insurance Program (CIP) by Janice Bisko from the Director General Personnel and Family Support Services. She spoke on the coverage provided, the deductibles, essentiality of proper artefact descriptions and the value of certified appraisals.

The day finished with a lecture from Dr. Desmond Morton on the War of 1812.

Day 5 - Friday, 1 June

The final day began with a continental breakfast in the hotel and then a trip to the Logistics Museum at Longue Pointe as well as to the 25 Supply Depot and a tour of the 202 Workshop Depot, two of the primary third line supply and maintenance support units for the Canadian Forces. A catered lunch was held at the Logistic Museum where a special presentation of the firing of the 3rd Field Battery, RCA, demonstration team's WW II 25-Pdr howitzer marked the beginning and end of the lunch period. A special item remaining from the 2012 AGM was completed after lunch.

The conference finished with a formal dinner at FMR, preceded by the opening of the Molson Collection exhibit. The art work, by Adam Sherriff Scott, was commissioned by the Molson family after the Second World War and each piece was donated to different regiments across Canada.